

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

ARCHIVES INFORMATION CIRCULAR

Number 1 GS (Revised 2002 DAB/JOS)

Raleigh, North. Carolina

MAPS AND OTHER CARTOGRAPHIC RECORDS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE ARCHIVES

I. INTRODUCTION

The mapmaker's art is known to have flourished for more than five thousand years. During those millennia, the map user's technique and demands have flourished as well. This circular offers a few suggestions about the use of maps and describes summarily the maps and other principal cartographic records in the North Carolina State Archives.

Locating Place Names The most common request for maps comes from researchers hoping to locate on maps a geographical place name which they have found mentioned in wills, deeds, letters, or other eighteenth and nineteenth century records. A misapprehension usually leads the inexperienced researcher to believe that a map contemporary with the record in which he found the name is his best source for locating the geographical feature so designated. Generally, nothing could be further from the truth. This state of affairs exists for a number of reasons. Except for major geographical features that appear on almost every map of any consequence, early maps are notorious for their lack of detailed local geographical information. Frequently, seventeenth and eighteenth century maps suffer from bizarre distortions, are inaccurate by today's standards, and are difficult to interpret. Further complicating the search for such local geographical information as was shown on early maps are the facts that there are practically no detailed maps of North Carolina counties prior to the Civil War, and statewide maps do not show county boundaries prior to 1808.

The best technique for locating place names is to consult William S. Powell's *North Carolina Gazetteer* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1968) in order to determine whether the location of the geographical feature is described in this dictionary-arranged reference book. If it is, the researcher will find the feature shown on one of a series of modern maps: North Carolina soil survey maps, Army Map Service maps, or North Carolina State Highway Commission county maps.

Sometimes the *Gazetteer* will make reference to early maps on which specified geographic features may be found. When the name of a geographic feature is not found in the *Gazetteer* but the general area of its location is known (a nearby river, mountain, major creek; municipality; township; or county), the determined researcher can often find it by carefully scrutinizing a few of the maps prepared by the United States Geological Survey. However, it is sometimes impossible to find a specific local geographical feature shown and named on a map. More information about the United States Geological Survey is given below in Part II of this circular, THE MAP COLLECTION AND ITS CATEGORIES.

Locating Family Names A second unlikely anticipation of researchers is that one will be able to

find family names of landowners on maps. A not uncommon request is for a map that will show all land grants in North Carolina; there is no such map. There are a few landownership maps for specific North Carolina counties for specific years. These, however, do not show descent of land, do not show the residence of every family in the county, and do not indicate the size of landholdings. An abbreviated list of known North Carolina county landownership maps can be found in an appendix to this circular.

In addition to the county landownership maps, a small number of reconnaissance surveys made during the Civil War by the Corps of Engineers, Confederate States Army, list and locate the names of landowners. The major map from this group (and its variants) is referred to in the appendix. Statewide maps that show the names of some of the "family seats" in North Carolina prior to the Civil War are those by Moseley (1733); Collet (1770); Mouzon (1775); Price (1808); and MacRae-Brazier (1833). This last group of statewide maps will be mentioned further in Part IV of this circular, FACSIMILES, PHOTOCOPIES, AND RECENT PRINTED MAPS.

Treasure Maps and Sunken Vessels A substantial number of requests for maps comes from those who hope to find maps that will show either buried treasure or the site of sunken vessels and plate fleets. Though the North Carolina State Archives owns a few harbor charts which show the 1861-1865 positions of wrecks deliberately sunk as a protective measure in some harbors during the Civil War, it has no series of maps which answers the hopes of treasure seekers. The few harbor charts owned by the North Carolina State Archives that show submerged wrecks are copies prepared from originals in the National Archives ("Records of the Hydrographic Office, Department of the Navy"--Record Group 57). Researchers interested in the location of wrecks and obstructions in coastal waters may wish to write for more information from the National Archives, Washington, D. C. 20408. Persons interested in exploring wrecks in North Carolina waters should consult the Archaeology Section, Office of Archives and History, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N. C. 27699-4619, for advice about state laws governing this subject. The Archaeology Section's web site is <http://www.arch.dcr.state.nc.us/fosa.htm>

II. THE MAP COLLECTION AND ITS CATEGORIES

The map collection is comprised of approximately 3000 maps brought together from various sources to create a reference collection. Original manuscript and published maps can be found in the collection; there are also numerous photographic and facsimile copies of maps that have been made from originals located elsewhere in the United States and abroad. The North Carolina State Archives is in the process of cataloging these maps and scanning them for access via the Internet. These descriptions and images can be searched at <http://www.ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us>

Maps in the collection are filed by a classification number and not necessarily by subject. This means that researchers will find it necessary to use the card catalog that describes maps. Call slips for requesting maps are located near the card catalog. Researchers are expected to request assistance in using the map collection.

The card catalog is arranged in several trays. The first contains a chronological listing of maps of the entire colony and state of North Carolina. The second tray of catalog cards lists by alphabetical arrangement the maps, charts, and surveys of canals, waterways, and water bodies of North Carolina. The third and fourth trays are divided by county, and under each division report in a chronological arrangement the copies of county maps of North Carolina in the collection. The fifth tray is divided by

names of municipalities and reports in a chronological arrangement the city and town plans in the collection. The sixth tray contains a listing of maps by several miscellaneous categories: military maps, road surveys, Indian lands, railroad surveys, national parks and forests, etc. Each card in the catalog gives a brief description of a map by title, size, scale, date, and call number; usually, but not always, the name of the mapmaker is reported as well.

Special Collections Within the Map Collection There are two separate groups of swampland surveys available in the map collection. These surveys are of lands in eastern North Carolina counties and were made under contract to the state. The first group is a part of the records of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and has been fully cataloged with other county maps and surveys. The second group is very closely related to the other and is called the Eric Norden Collection (after the name of the surveyor). The Norden Collection has a separate printed catalog and index; cards have not been prepared for inclusion in the trays which report county maps and surveys.

Loose sheets from the printed atlas to accompany the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion (Army)* are kept in the map collection as a distinct category. This atlas has its own separately printed catalog and index. The more than 1000 maps in the atlas show all of the major campaigns and battles and a number of the lesser skirmishes that took place during the Civil War.

Approximately 150 maps relating to World War I are in the Military Collection. The greater part of these maps is European. The eighth tray of the map catalog contains individual listings of these maps.

One of the most useful series of maps in the collection is the one in preparation by the U. S. Geological Survey. This survey, begun in 1879, will eventually cover the entire United States; only the sheets relating to North Carolina are in the map collection. Commonly referred to as topographic maps, there are nearly 550 completed sheets, representing about half the total area of the state, in the North Carolina survey. Each sheet is named for a prominent natural feature or for a town or city on the sheet. Both cultural and natural geographic features are mapped in these highly detailed surveys. Arrangement is alphabetical by the name of the sheet; the name of each sheet and the area covered by each can be determined by consulting an index map that is part of the series.

III. OTHER CARTOGRAPHIC RECORDS

In addition to the reference collection of maps, there are other groups of cartographic records available to researchers.

State Highway Commission (Division of Administration, Department of Planning, Financial Section) records located in the North Carolina State Archives contain plans of municipalities receiving street repair allocations under provisions of the Powell Bill during the period 1951 through 1955. Approximately six cubic feet of location and relocation surveys made between 1942 and 1947 (arranged alphabetically by county), and the 1929-1930 survey of the governor's mansion, are in the archival files of the Engineer's Division, State Highway Commission. Fifty-one oversized surveys of prison property in Wake and Pender counties, and profiles, sectional drawings, and elevations of Caledonia Dike on Roanoke River have been removed from the archival files of the Engineering Division of the State Highway Commission and are foldered separately.

Wildlife Resources Commission records in the Archives contain nearly twelve cubic feet of

title files that include plats of land acquired for wildlife management areas, game refuges, and restoration projects between the years 1938 and 1951. Arrangement is alphabetical by the name of the area, refuge, or project. Approximately 100 original linen drawings of wildlife cover maps have been removed from this record group and are foldered separately.

The North Carolina Railroad Company records in the Archives include five elephant-folio volumes that contain surveys of the railroad's route from Goldsboro to Charlotte. An additional 17 loose property maps and surveys, 7 volumes of land records and compass notes, and 2 Fibredex boxes of deeds and miscellaneous land records are to be found in this record group.

Utilities Commission records include a small group of cartographic records similar to those of the North Carolina Railroad Company: municipal plans, right-of-way maps, and property maps of utilities companies.

Private collections of manuscripts in the Archives sometimes contain cartographic records. When these are comprised of maps, charts, or plans, they are usually fully cataloged; when they are comprised of plats and small-area surveys, reference to them can only be found in the subject guide to private collections. In addition to these two aids, the index to the *Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives*, compiled and edited by Barbara T. Cain, should be consulted.

IV. FACSIMILES, PHOTOCOPIES, AND RECENT PRINTED MAPS

Facsimiles. The Historical Publications Section has published facsimiles of most of the major state maps of North Carolina. In addition, they have published inexpensive "study" maps of use to historians and genealogists. The maps available from Historical Publications are:

North Carolina in Maps. By William P. Cumming, 1966. 36p., 15 maps, varying in size from 12½ x 16 inches to 36 x 17 inches (approximate sizes). These maps are reproduced by photolithography from original copies in such repositories as Library of Congress, North Carolina Collection of University of North Carolina State Archives. The set includes White 1585 MS, White-De Bry 1590, Mercator-Hondius 1606, Comberford 1657 MS, Ogilby-Moxon *ca.* 1672, Moseley 1733, Collet 1770, Mouzon 1775, Price-Strother 1808, MacRae-Brazier 1833, Colton 1861, Bachman 1861, U. S. Coast Survey 1865, Kerr-Cain 1882, Post Route 1896. Printed on high quality off-white paper with sepia ink, suitable for framing. Set of maps and brochure, in heavy mailing tube. \$30.00.

Available only as a set, not by individual map.

Carte General de la Caroline, 1696. 19 x 23 inches. General map of Carolina in 1696 drawn from memory by Sieua Sanson, Amsterdam. \$1.00.

Chart Showing the Origin of North Carolina Counties. By D. L. Corbitt and L. Polk Denmark. Shows dates counties were formed and from what counties others were created. (5th printing, 1970.) \$1.00.

Map Showing the Formation of North Carolina Counties. From maps drawn by L. Polk Denmark and used in *Formation of North Carolina Counties*, by D. L. Corbitt. 1961. Twelve maps on one sheet, showing North Carolina counties from 1700 to 1912; illustrative of evolution of present county boundaries. \$1.00.

Map of North Carolina, 1861-1865. By Betsy J. Gunter. Locates principal forts and towns and indicates location of engagements fought in North Carolina during the Civil War. (Third printing, 1973.) \$1.00

Outline Map of North Carolina Giving Names of the Counties. Map for use of students of North Carolina history, geography, industry, agriculture, etc. (4th printing, 1971.) 9 x 18 inches. \$1.00.

For copies of these published maps and facsimiles please send money order or check with name and complete address to Historical Publications Section, Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources, 4622 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4622 or call (919) 733-7442. Information about ordering maps may be found on their website as well. The address is www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/default.htm

Photocopies With the exception of a few maps that cannot be copied either because of the condition of the Archives' copy or because of some restriction that has been imposed by the donor, any and all of the maps in the State Archives can be photocopied for the use of historians, genealogists, title searchers, and others who may want them. Prices vary according to type of copy and size, and the basic price is \$4.00 for a photocopy that measures 12 x 18 inches. This is the largest single-sheet photocopy that can be made by the copying equipment currently available in the division. For maps that are larger than 12 x 18 inches in the original, a reduced-size copy or a multiple-sheet, original-size copy can be provided. It should be noted that some detail is lost in photocopying, and this is particularly the case when a reduced-size photocopy is made.

Recent Printed Maps Current maps of each of the 100 North Carolina counties are available from the Department of Transportation. These maps, which show cities and towns, roads, major streams and other major geographic features, railroads, schools and churches, etc., are available.

For details and price list, inquiries should be addressed directly to the Head of Location and Surveys, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Their web site is <http://www.ncdot.org/>

APPENDIX

NORTH CAROLINA LANDOWNERSHIP MAPS

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY LANDOWNERSHIP MAPS

Alamance (1893, Spoon)
*Bladen (1885, McDuffie & Gillespie)
Brunswick (1910, Smith)
Caswell (1868, Venable)
Catawba (1886, Yoder)
Chatham (1870, Ramsey)
*Cleveland (1886, Kyzer)
Cumberland (1884, McDuffie)
*Davidson (1890, Johnson)

Davie (1887, Alderman)
Davie (1936, Furr)
*Durham (1887, Johnson)
Edgecombe (1905, Pike & Brown)
Forsyth (1927, Miller)
Franklin (1867, Burwell-Blair)
Granville (1868, Harris)
Guilford (ca. 1910, Miller)
Iredell (1917, Kinney)
More (ca. 1885, McDuffie)
New Hanover (1869, James & Brown)
New Hanover (1886, Moss Engr. Co.)
Orange (1891, Tate)
Randolph (ca. 1873, Bean)
Randolph (1885, Johnson)
Robeson (1884, McDuffie)
Robeson (1922, Linnon)
Rockingham (ca. 1912, Miller)
Rutherford (1927, Carpenter)
Scotland (1908, Commissioners)
Stanly (ca. 1911, Miller)
Surry (1921, Pratt)
Transylvania (1868, Hensen) Union (1907, Miller) Vance (1925, Buck)
Wake (ca. 1870, Bevers) Wake (1885, Scholar) Wake (1887, Shaffer) Warren (1874, Paschal) Warren (1921, Buck)
*Those marked thus are not to be found in the North Carolina State Archives; copies are in the Library of Congress.

NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL LANDOWNERSHIP MAPS

"Map of a Part of Eastern North Carolina from a Map in Progress" (1864, CSA Engineers). [This map and its variants, including the Koerner survey between Tar and Roanoke rivers, shows landownership for part or all of the following counties: Bertie, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson.]

"Map of Hertford and Part of Northampton and Bertie Counties" (1863, Cassell, CSA Engineer).

"Vance-Warren, Franklin and Granville Counties (1927, Buck).